

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /098 W

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P 251535Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6967

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TS

SUBJECT: PARTIAL CABINET RESHUFFLE

1. GOT ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 25 FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES:

2. MOALLA (MIN OF PLAN) AND HANNABLIA (AGRICULTURE)
ARE OUT, REPLACED BY CHEDLI AYARI AND HASSEN BELKHOJA
RESPECTIVELY.

3. FARHAT AND BEN OSMAN SWITCH MINISTRIES, FARHAT
TAKING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND BEN OSMAN TAKING
SUPPLY.

4. ABDELAZIZ LASRAM (AKA AZOUZ LASRAM) IS NEW MINISTER
OF NATIONAL ECONOMY IN AYARI'S PLACE.

5. COMMENT: RESHUFFLE IS NOT AS EXTENSIVE AS MANY HAD
EXPECTED. DEPARTURE NOT ONLY OF MOALLA BUT ALSO OF
BEN OSMAN AND MESSADKI (MIN CULTURE) WERE PREDICTED ON
STRENGTH THEIR FAILURE GAIN REELECTION TO CENTRAL
COMMITTEE. AYARI HAS SOUGHT THE MINISTRY FOR PLAN FOR
SOME TIME. BELKHOJA'S ELEVATION TO POLITICAL BUREAU
PRESAGED HIS MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT. HANNABLIA, WHOSE
POLITICAL FORTUNES DID NOT SEEM AFFECTED BY RECENT
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PARTY CONGRESS, IS RATHER QUIET INDIVIDUAL. IT MAY BE

THAT RELATIVELY LARGE VOLUME OF COMPLAINTS HEARD AT
CONGRESS ABOUT GOT'S FAILURE ADEQUATELY TO HANDLE RURAL
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS LED BOURGUIBA TO PUT MORE DYNAMIC,
CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND BELKHOJA INTO THIS TROUBLE SPOT.
LASRAM, WHO NOT EVEN ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN
PRESIDENT DIRECTOR/GENERAL OF BANQUE NATIONALE DE
TUNISIE.

SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS06002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740270-0266
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740913/aaaaalat.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARTIAL CABINET RESHUFFLE
TAGS: PINT, TS, (AYARI, CHEDLI), (BELKHOJA, HASSEN), (LASRAM, ABDELAZIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005